

Students chart the number of books they read and complete and return a reading response form for the books they take home.

The Mozart Elementary School is working to catalog all of the new books that the FLP gives to new schools. "We started the program on Oct.1 so we are still in the set up phase," said Mozart parent liaison Suzie Elbach. "I am excited to be working with ReadBoston and to start working with the teachers to implement the reading logs. The program will bring a number of positive things to the school."

ReadBoston provides both technical and financial assistance for the FLP. Each year, ReadBoston provides a fulltime work force for the FLP. Project coordinator Heidi Sampson places five AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service to America) members to each work with several schools coordinating events and act as literacy advocates.

"The FLP is most successful at schools that make reading a priority. The schools we work with take our model and adapt it to the specific needs present at their school. They add a lot of great ideas and innovation to the FLP and it becomes each school's personalized program," said ReadBoston AmeriCorps*VISTA Sarah Ernst-Edwards. "The sustainability goal for the FLP is that the program becomes an integrated part of the school's daily routine."

Participating schools receive funding for new books from ReadBoston for three years, during which time the school works to make the program self-sustainable. The first year, schools receive \$15 per student to be spent on books. For the next two years, each classroom receives \$100 to supplement their growing classroom libraries. During this time the schools work to make the FLP become self-reliant.

Requests for proposals are distributed to schools in December. To receive project assistance, 95% of the teachers in an elementary school must agree to implement both lending libraries and individual parent-teacher conferences.

Launched by Mayor Thomas M. Menino and other city leaders five years ago, ReadBoston is an early literacy campaign whose goal is to have every child read at grade level by the end of third grade. The U.S. Department of Education and the White House